

Into the Clouds and Back Again

Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-12; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 829-835

Have you ever gone to an airport? Have you ever seen a plane take off? Did you see it grow smaller and smaller until it disappeared? Something like that happens in our story.

After Jesus was crucified and came back to life again, He spent 40 days with His disciples. During that time He encouraged

them. He helped them believe that He really was alive again. And He prepared them for the work they were to do.

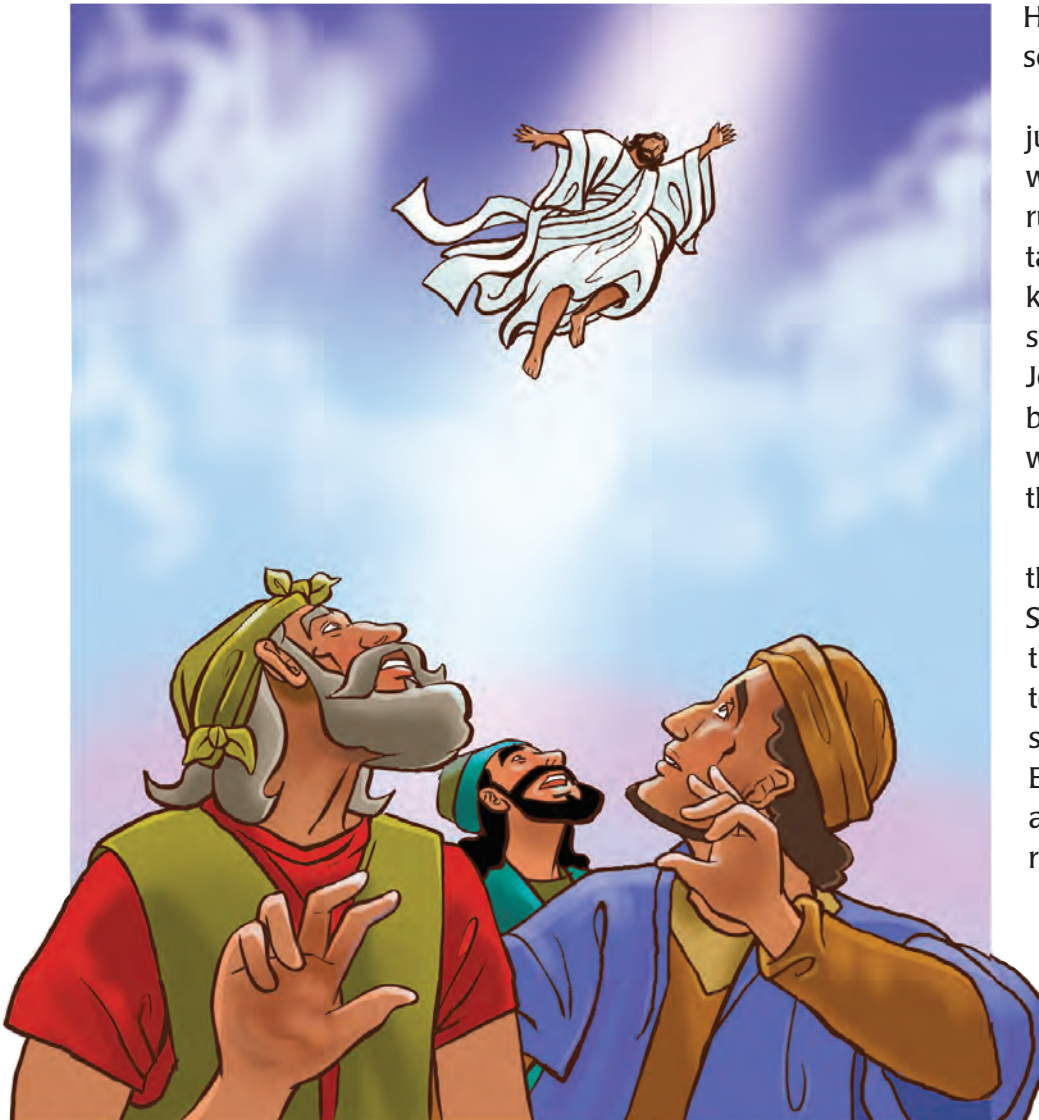
On His last day on earth, Jesus and His disciples visited together on one of their favorite spots, the Mount of Olives. From there, they could look down on the city of Jerusalem. The beautiful marble temple gleamed in the sun.

Only Jesus knew He would be leaving soon.

The disciples had just asked Him if He would overthrow the ruling king. Would He take His place on the king's throne? They still didn't understand! Jesus wasn't going to be an earthly king. He would be the King of their lives.

Gently, Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit would be with them. They were to take His message to all the world. Everyone must know about His death and resurrection.

After He said this, Jesus began to rise slowly into the air. Past the treetops, straight up into the sky. The



The Message

I want to be with Jesus when He comes back for me.

Memory Verse

“ ‘This same Jesus . . . will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven’ ”

(Acts 1:11, NIV).

disciples must have wondered what was happening. Maybe they watched with their mouths hanging open. Silently He disappeared into the clouds. They strained their eyes as Jesus disappeared from their sight.

As they stood staring into the sky, two men in white robes joined them. These two angels had stayed behind to help the surprised disciples understand what had just happened. The angels spoke, “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11, NIV).

The disciples began immediately to spread the good news about Jesus all over the world. Their work was the beginning of Christianity; a new religion based on three special beliefs:

- (1) Jesus, God’s Son, is alive.
- (2) Jesus came to live on earth and die for us, showing us that God loves us.
- (3) Jesus is coming back to earth to take us to live with Him in heaven.

The disciples missed Jesus. They wanted Him to come back. How about you? Do you want Jesus to come again? Do you want to be with Jesus forever? He will help you to get ready. Just ask Him.





S A B B A T H

DO With your family, go outside, if possible, and watch the sky. What do you see? Did you see anything disappear into the distance? Read your Bible lesson together. Read and discuss Acts 1:11. What does it mean to your family?

DO Write a psalm of praise to celebrate Jesus' return.

SING Sing "Do, Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 91).

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss Acts 1:1-3.

THINK What kind of celebration do you think there was when Jesus arrived in heaven? Tell your family.

DO Cut a cloud shape from white paper. Write the memory verse on the cloud and hang it up. Look at it each day. Thank Jesus for His promise to come again.

From the early days of His ministry Jesus told the disciples He would go back to heaven.



S U N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Luke 24:50-53 for family worship.

DO Ask a family member to help you find some information about rockets and manned space travel. Draw a rocket, a space shuttle, and an airplane on one half of a piece of paper. On the other half draw or attach a picture of Jesus. Write under Jesus' picture: "Jesus didn't need a rocket, shuttle, or plane to get to heaven. I won't either!"

DO Teach your memory verse to your family.

T U E S D A Y

READ During family worship read and discuss Acts 1:4, 5.

DO What gift did Jesus' Father promise the disciples? To find the answer, cross out every other letter from left to right.

H J O Z L T Y A S C P F I Q R H I K T

DO Look at your cloud and say your memory verse.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Acts 1:6-8 for worship. Who is the Holy Spirit? What does He give us? (vs. 8)

DO Ask your parents what a witness is. Have you ever witnessed to someone about Jesus? Call someone and share your Bible lesson with them.

SING Say your memory verse. Do you believe it? If so, sing "Jesus Is Coming Again" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 92), then thank Jesus for that promise.



THURSDAY

DO Together with your family, read and discuss Acts 1:9-11. What did the angels say to the 11 disciples?

DO Cut out a cardboard button and attach a safety pin to it. Write on your button: "JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!" Decorate it and wear it for a while. What will you say if someone asks questions?

DO Say your memory verse from memory.

SING Sing "When He Cometh" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 93). Then ask Jesus to help you always to be ready for His coming.

FRIDAY

DO Make separate cutouts of: Jesus standing on a cloud, the disciples looking up, two angels, and a cloud. Tape a steel paper clip to the back of the Jesus cutout. Find a thin cookie sheet and a strong magnet.

DO Start to tell your Bible story for worship. As you tell each part, tape the characters mentioned to the cookie sheet as if it were a picture. When you tell about Jesus going up into heaven, hold Jesus' picture against the cookie sheet. Place the magnet directly behind it on the other side of the cookie sheet. Move Jesus with the magnet. Make Him rise to the cloud.*

DO Joyfully say your memory verse at the end of your story.

READ Read Matthew 28:20b. Then thank Jesus for that promise.

*Magnet idea from *Fun-to-Learn Bible Lessons: K-3*, Volume 2 (Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, Inc., 1995), pp. 98, 99.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Two angels told the surprised disciples who were staring into the sky that they must be active until Jesus returns. Find the seven action words that describe those who look for the return of Jesus.



Y	T	E	M	X	B	T
B	A	P	T	I	Z	E
K	O	H	E	L	P	L
Z	S	H	A	R	E	L
I	W	H	C	A	R	E
P	U	V	H	E	A	L